

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface composing the steps of:

- i) polishing the surface, and
- ii) passivating the polished surface,

wherein the polishing step is carried out by a chemical polish and/or electro-chemical polish while said surface is immersed in a polishing composition of one or more of the following components; a phosphoric acid solution, monopropylene glycol, ethylene glycol, and nitric acid.

2. (Original) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method further comprises an initial step of pre-treating said surface to remove surface contaminants.

3. (Original) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 2, wherein said pre-treating step comprises chemically etching said surface and/or degreasing said surface.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface claimed in claim 2 ~~or claim 3~~, wherein surface contaminants are

removed during the pre-treatment step by contacting said surface with one or more degreasing component, such as sodium hydroxide.

5. (Original) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 3, wherein said chemical etching component is nitric acid solution and/or phosphoric acid.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said chemical polish and/or electro-chemical polish removes surface layers and/or reduces microscopic high points from the surface.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said electro-chemical polish is a galvanic electrolysis.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said electrochemical process further includes the supply of an external voltage to said surface.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein during

said electro-chemical polish an electrolyte anti-stagnation means is utilised or an AC voltage is applied to the electrolyte containing said surface.

10. (Original) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 9, wherein said electrolyte anti means is an electrolyte stirrer and/or an ultrasonic wave generating means.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said polishing step is followed by an intermediary wash removing at least some of the chemical and/or electrolyte solution from said surface.

12. (Original) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 11, wherein said intermediary wash is carried out in a composition containing monopropylene glycol and/or ethylene glycol.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said polishing step is followed by an alkaline wash.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 11 ~~or claim 12~~, wherein said intermediary wash is followed by an alkaline wash.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 13 ~~or claim 14~~, wherein said alkaline wash substantially neutralises acids and/or substantially removes Aluminium, Manganese or Zinc from said surface.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/Or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 13 ~~or claim 14~~, wherein said alkaline wash is carried out in a composition containing sodium hydroxide

17. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said passivating step provides a substantially corrosion resistant and/or water insoluble surface coating or film.

18. (Original) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in Claim 17 wherein said substantially corrosion resistant and/or water insoluble surface coating or film is a phosphate salt coating or film.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 17 ~~or claim 18~~, wherein said passivating step voltage is varied to alter said substantially corrosion resistant and/or water insoluble surface coating or film thickness.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 1, ~~claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein an inorganic material coating or sealer is applied to said substantially corrosion resistant and/or water insoluble surface coating or film.

21. (Original) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 18, wherein said inorganic material coating or sealer is substantially transparent and/or substantially provides corrosion protection and/or at least provides some protection from mechanically induced damage.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 20 ~~or claim 21~~, wherein said inorganic material coating or sealer is a silicon based composition, such as a disodium metasilicate, and a polyacrylamide coagulant in de-ionised water.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening, a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said passivating step and/or said inorganic material coating or sealer step is followed by a surface drying step.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ including the pre-treatment steps of:

- a. immersing the surface in an iron based solution,
- b. activating said surface with said Iron based solution, wherein said iron based solution is reduced to thereby deposit iron on said surface,
- c. etching said surface with an etch composition to modify the activated surface layer,
- d. stripping iron deposits from said surface with an iron removal composition, and
- e. washing said surface to substantially remove compositions remaining on said surface.

25. (Original) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 24, wherein said activator is a solution selected from the following; ferric chloride, hydrochloric acid, ammonium bifluoride and ammonium bromide.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 24 ~~or claim 25~~, wherein said etch composition is selected from the following; ferric chloride; ferric chloride and phosphoric acid solution, or a reduce solution of ferric chloride and phosphoric acid.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 24 ~~claim any one of claims 24 to 26~~, wherein said

iron removal composition is selected from the following; nitric acid and sodium borate in solution or nitric acid and phosphoric acid in solution.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as claimed in claim 24~~any one of claims 24 to 27~~, wherein said step of washing said surface is carried out with a water wash or an alkaline wash.

29. (Original) A method of polishing and/or brightening a magnesium or magnesium alloy surface as hereinbefore described and with reference to any one of the accompanying drawings.

30. (Original) A magnesium or magnesium alloy surface polished or brightened according to the method substantially as hereinbefore described and with ret to any one of the accompanying drawings.

The specification, abstract and claims of the referenced application have been amended in accordance with common U.S. Patent Practice and to remove the multiple dependencies of claims 6 to 9, 11, 13 to 17, 19, 20, 22 to 24 and 26 to 28. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments. Entry is in order.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP



Benjamin J. Hauptman
Registration No. 29,310

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111 BJH/eb
Facsimile: (703) 518-5499
Date: March 7, 2005